Amendments to Standing Orders.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, I beg to move for leave to amend Standing Order No. 56 asfollows:—

"To add the following as Standing Order 56 (1) and number Standing Order 56 as 56(2):—"A copy of the Budget and notice of a motion for any supplementary demand shall be sent by the Secretary to every Member so as to reach his permanent address at least 8 clear days before the commencement of the meeting"

In explaining this amendment I have to read Standing Order 56 which when read alongwith this amend will show the importance and necessity of the proposed amendment. Standing Order 56 reads thus—"If notice of a motion to omit or reduce any grant has not been given 5 clear days before the day on which the demand is to be considered, any Member may object to the moving of the motion and such objection shall prevail unless the President in the exercise of his power to suspend the Standing Order allows the motion to be made. We have to give five clear days' notice for admitting motions and therefore we should get notice of demandsreferring to which we have to give this notice at least two or three days prior to this 5 clear days as required by the Standing Order. It is for this reason that I have given this amendment so that we may be able to send in our notices in time.

Further, according to Standing Order No.56 if notice of the motion was not given five clear days before the day on which the demand was to be considered any member should object for the President to look into the matter and give his rulingif no objection was made the motion must be admitted. With regard to this matter in the last Budget Session, a point of order was raised on account of disallowing so many motions given notice of by the members and the then President ruled that the Standing order should be strictly obeyed, that no motion referring to a demand should be disallowed unless any Member objects to that matter being considered by the Council, and the President thinks that, that objection is reasonable. To set aside the ruling given by the President, the Government without amending the Standing Orders, amended the rules of the Council which are forbidden to be discussed in this Council and we were asked to give notice of motions 5 clear days before the meeting. Standing Order 50 and the rule amended are not in consonance. The rule says that unless 5 days' clear notice is not given motions will not be admitted and the Standing Order says that any member should raise an objection and then only the President will consider the

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matter. If no objection is raised motion must be allowed. The rule and the Standing Order are at variance. It is very necessary that we should get sufficient time to give notice of motions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, I second the amendment proposed. In doing so I must say that the present amendment to rule 50 works very great hardship on the Members. I can give an instance. For the present meeting the list of supplementary grants to be moved in this Council were sent to the Members and in many cases it reached the Members only 3 or 4 days prior to the date of commencement of this meeting. If the President were to insist upon the 5 days' rule regarding motions that were to be sent upon the supplementary grants, it might not have been possible for moving most of the cuts. At times the President is pleased to exercise his discretion and allow motions at less than five days notice. But we cannot always expect such a generous treatment from the President. It is therefore desirable that sufficient changes are made in the Standing Orders to see that we are in a position to satisfy the rule regarding the notice of cut motions and therefore there is necessity for this amendment. I therefore support it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Sir, May I proceed to the next stage?

President.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I understand from the Secretary to Council that Government have some amendment to this. So I propose that this may be referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee should necessarily include the Deputy President, who is the Chairman, the Government Advocate, the Secretary to the Council and the mover and I now proposet he three other members, *viz.*, Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, Mr. Pettah and Mr. P. Krishna Menon.

Motion put and carried.

President.—The committee should report within two months.

Resolutions.

Selection of Text-Books (*cont.*)

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Sir, yesterday I gave a list of 9 books written by one of the Members of the Board of Studies and prescribed by himself and his colleagues for use for this educational year. Yesterday while giving that list I was under the impression that only 9 books written by this author had been prescribed but from the same Gazette notification that I read out to the House yesterday I find that one more book which gives him 8 annas per copy has also been prescribed,

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